

# Election Role-Playing Debate

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## Objective:

Students will research a candidate's positions in order to role-play debate.

## Students will:

- enhance research skills
  - sharpen debate skills
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## Resources/Materials:

- [2020election.procon.org](http://2020election.procon.org)
  - internet connection
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## Preparation:

- Teachers should decide whether they want to limit topics to allow depth of research into one topic, or not place any limits to allow a broader understanding of a candidate's platform.
  - Teachers should choose their preferred debate format. Options may be found in [ProCon.org's lesson plans](#).
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## Activity:

1. In small groups, students should research one candidate per group
2. Students should choose a group representative to debate as that candidate using the candidates' stated positions on ProCon.org as a starting point.
3. Student representatives should debate in class, acting as the group's candidate. Students may switch in and out of the role, or otherwise support the "candidate."
4. Variations:
  - a. Rather than choosing a group representative, students in the group could each debate using a round robin format.
  - b. Rather than a debate, students could prepare a campaign speech individually. This could be an oral or written exercise.

- c. Students should watch clips of the candidates during debates and speeches. Then analyze word choice, speech inflections, body language, and other information given by an oral presentation rather than a written text.
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**Evaluation:**

1. Quality of research
2. Debate preparation